

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120

VOL. XI, No. 17

October 11, 1958

GENERAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR FALL 1959

Although the current legislative period does not end before Spring 1960, the Cabinet proposes to call the nation to the polls in about a year's time, when local elections will take place throughout Austria. The voting procedure would thus be greatly simplified.

Normally, general elections are held every four years (last vote: Spring 1956). The Government has also announced, however, that it favors a longer legislative period — i.e., five years — in order to enable Parliament to extend its "productive phase" in relation to pre-election activity.

RAAB BIDS IAEA CONFERENCE WELCOME

Federal Chancellor *Julius Raab* opened the 2nd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency last September 22nd in the newly created Great Auditorium of the Vienna Hofburg. The Chancellor welcomed delegates from the 69 member states in the name of the Austrian Government. He then spoke on the ever increasing importance of atomic energy.

Raab stressed the extraordinary achievements thus far reached in atomic science. He said that it was necessary to discuss atomic science freely and that an exchange of opinion was necessary. He pointed out that atomic science could be applied for humanitarian purposes only in peaceful competition and under international cooperation. "Only under these circumstances," he declared, "could atomic science tackle the foes of mankind: poverty and disease."

(Continued on page 2)

VIENNA CENTER FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS

During the general debate of the 2nd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Austrian delegate *Dr. Thirring* welcomed the fact that the Agency's 1959 budget included the construction of a laboratory in Vienna.

Prof. Thirring suggested that the Agency not limit itself solely to training engineers and technicians there, but that it construct in Vienna an international center for theoretical physics.

To finance such a project, he declared, money which had been set aside for an exchange of scientists might be used. Thirring recalled the great tradition in theoretical physics in Vienna, and referred to such names as Loschmidt and Boltzmann. He stated that the Austrian authorities would gladly do everything possible to assist in the realization of such a project.

ECONOMY SHOCKPROOF; EXPANSION ARRESTED, BUT GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT STILL GROWING

A recent report from the Austrian Institute for Economic Research said that the Austrian economy showed sufficient flexibility to withstand the impact of the international recession. Total production, incomes and employment even surpassed the figures of last year. Recessionist influences due to export curtailment and stock reduction were mostly balanced by continued high domestic consumption and lively investment activities.

Domestic business was assisted by increased public spending and by income tax reductions. Losses in certain branches of the economy which were particularly hard hit by export difficulties, stock reductions or from a change in the domestic market, were balanced almost completely through expansion of other branches of the economy.

Nevertheless, economic growth has practically come to a standstill — at least for the time being. At the same time, this economic pause facilitates stabilization of price levels. Since the payment balances are favorable, the Austrian economy, both domestically and internationally, shows a large measure of stability.

The money and capital market is fairly fluid. Increased offers of short and long-term foreign capital were channeled into investments which had been deferred because of financing difficulties.

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT SCHAERF ADDRESSES CONFERENCE OF NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS; STRESSES DEDICATION TO PEACE

At the conclusion of the conference of prominent atomic physicists in Kitzbuehel (Third Pugwash Conference) late in September, a statement was released in which the scientists expressed the necessity of establishing confidence among nations and stressed the devastating consequences of a nuclear war. The statement also demanded a continuing study of the effects of radiation from test explosions, because scientists were not yet certain about the amount of damage from them.

The Pugwash conference (whose name derives from its first meeting in Pugwash, Nova Scotia) was attended by 66 scientists from East and West, among them the Nobel Prize winners Lord Bertrand Russell, Max Born, Lord Boyd-Orr, C.F. Powell, Sir George Thomson, Professor Yukawa, H.G. Muller and Linus Pauling. Prof. Hans Thirring was the leading Austrian participant.

The participants held their final meeting in Vienna,

where President Schaerf asked that the United Nations acknowledge the findings of the scientists and do not allow the human problems inherent in disarmament and nuclear danger to disappear from its agenda. The session, which was held in the auditorium of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, was also attended by the Archbishop of Vienna, Dr. Koenig, Education Minister Drimmel, Communications Minister Waldbrunner, Secretary of State in the Foreign Office Kreisky and Sterling Cole, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In his address, the President referred to the co-sponsorship of the Koerner Foundation, which had taken the initiative in bringing the Conference to Austria; he said:

"The Foundation which bears the name of my late predecessor in office, Theodor Koerner, has rightly considered it its duty to contribute toward the solution of the greatest problem which mankind faces today: the keeping of the peace and the elimination of nuclear danger. As for myself, I have for years striven to help realize the ideas whose scientific champions you are.

"When as a candidate for the Presidency I sought to gain the confidence of the Austrian people, I always made it clear that it was my greatest desire to make Austria the vanguard of all movements against the use of nuclear weapons. At the time, I proposed an appeal to the heads of state of the world and a peace meeting of scientists under the chairmanship of the great humanitarian, Dr. Albert Schweitzer.

"Today, too, I speak frankly to you and, together with you, to all the world. The warning issued to the world's scientists in 1955 by Albert Einstein and Bertrand Russell has not remained unheard. The best among them have decided to give the responsible statesmen of our time an objective picture of the dangers which a new world war would bring to mankind.

"Let us hope, nay, let us demand that the world's conscience, as embodied in the United Nations Organization, makes the findings of the experts its own, and that, considering its own tremendous responsibility, it will not permit the problems of disarmament and of nuclear danger ever to disappear from its agenda.

"Austria is proud of the fact that once more it was able to serve humanity by advancing the cause of peace. I know myself to be one with all my fellow citizens in this firm conviction: working for peace is the great, holy and, in the light of history, decisive task of our generation."

Following this final conference session, a meeting was held in Vienna's City Center which was attended by more than 6,000 persons.

U.S. INTERESTED IN MORE TRADE WITH AUSTRIA

Deputy U.S. Commerce Secretary Kearns, who attended the Vienna Fall Fair, met with representatives of Austrian trade and commerce for a discussion of trade expansion possibilities. Mr. Kearns expressed the belief that Austrian exports to the U.S. can be increased; he also said that the American Fair pavilion, which operated an information office which advised interested parties on trade with the U.S., has obviously been very successful in representing American commerce and industry.

STEEL: OUTLOOK DIM

The VOeEST (United Austrian Steel, Linz) produced 1.1 million tons of raw steel last year and probably will reach 1.2 million tons this year. About half of this is LD steel. The production of rolled tin which in 1957 reached 730 tons is expected to increase this year to 800 tons. It is expected that late in October the new sheet mill will be in operation to produce ship and sheet metal up to a width of 4.2 meters (one meter equals 1.1 yards.) Just at a time when export shipments of raw steel are no longer lucrative, this sheet rolling mill will start operations, and orders from shipyards in Scandinavian countries and elsewhere are already in hand. Because of the general situation in the iron and steel industry, VOeEST intends slowly to close down its fourth furnace and to start it up again next year when the new oxygen steel furnace is ready for production. Orders are relatively active so that VOeEST hopes not to have to lay off any workers for the time being.

At a recent press conference, a VOeEST spokesman said that after years of boom, the iron and steel industry was now undergoing a crisis. Since the middle of last year, he said, business started to fall off slowly, and by the end of 1957, the depression began to show its effects upon VOeEST's foreign markets.

A company as large as VOeEST, he added, could exist in Austria only if it exported at least 50% of its production. But exports were largely dependent on the price and market situation in foreign countries. Hitzinger reported that in 1957, about 180,000 tons of raw steel at \$84 per ton had been shipped to Italy. But in 1958, Italy will take only 30,000 tons at a price of only \$47 per ton.

THE AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE
may be able to furnish more detailed information
on any item printed in AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

IAEA Conference (Continued from page 1)

Raab said that it was of the utmost importance that in peaceful application of the atom, human health and security be protected. Among the foremost tasks of the international agency, he said, is the exploration of all possible security measures.

"We have tried from the start," Mr. Raab concluded. "to create here at the headquarters of the IAEA in Vienna a favorable climate for your work and to provide the best possible technical facilities.

"For your work, which the whole world will follow with the greatest interest, I extend to you the best wishes of the Austrian government and the Austrian people."

IAEA director general Sterling Cole then read his annual report. He said that Vienna, thanks to its heritage of understanding and tolerance, seemed to be the ideal soil for the work of the organization. He expressed the hope that out of the divergent opinion, plans will emerge which will bring peace and stability to the world.

AUSTRIAN FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS HAS 1,438,755 MEMBERS

The annual report of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions (OeGB) for 1957 shows that the total membership reached 1,438,755 on December 31, 1957. This is a rise of 11,454 over 1956. The Federation's development continues favorably, the report stated. During the 12 years of its existence, membership has never gone down.

274,605 REFUGEES NATURALIZED

In his opening speech before the Eighth General Conference of the Research Society for Refugee Problems, which met Sept. 17 at Baden near Vienna, Minister of the Interior Helmer discussed measures which the Austrian Government considered suitable toward finding a permanent solution of the refugee problem.

Helmer declared that Austria will retain the principle of the right of asylum, that the benefits of Austrian social legislation will be granted to the refugees and displaced persons in the same way as they are given to Austrian citizens, and that Austria would do everything to insure the settlement of the refugees.

A ministry spokesman offered a statistical review. He said that beginning in 1955, Yugoslavs crossed the border into Austria in increasing numbers, but, he said, these were not political but purely "economic" refugees. In 1957 alone, he said, 14,316 Yugoslavs had come to Austria; only 646 of them carried identity papers. Some 2,114 Yugoslavs had been repatriated. Since 1945, Austria had been harboring about 1.4 million refugees and displaced persons, an effort which cost about 1.6 billion schillings.

At present, 80,000 refugees are in Austria, the spokesman said, and 14,343 of them in Vienna. Of the total number, 15,600 were in camps, and some 64,000 in private residences. During the first six months of 1958, 7,300 refugees were resettled in Canada, West Germany, Argentina, Sweden, Australia, the U.S. and Britain. 772 refugees, including 680 Hungarians and 82 Yugoslavs, were repatriated.

Up to July 1, 1958, 274,605 refugees became Austrian citizens. In Vienna alone, 77,000 were naturalized.

CAPACITY FOR FURTHER ABSORPTION EXHAUSTED

Austria has reached the saturation point in its ability to absorb refugees, Foreign Minister Figl declared in Washington. In an interview, Figl appealed to the world at large to help Austria in overcoming the many difficulties connected with the refugee problem. He said that if future refugees, many of whom will be old and sick, are to be helped, the cooperation of all nations is necessary.

ECONOMY SHOCKPROOF (Continued from page 1)

The gross national product was three percent higher during the first quarter of 1958 and two percent higher in the second quarter than during the same periods of 1957. During the third quarter, however, it might be difficult to exceed the 1957 level.

The various branches of the economy developed unevenly: Export losses appeared especially in the forestry (timber and lumber) sectors, communications and some industrial products.

Agricultural production, which had greatly increased during 1957, is expected to grow further this year. Noticable advances are also enjoyed by foreign tourist traffic and the building trade.

Tourist traffic accounted for 1.8 million overnight reservations per month during the first seven months of 1958. This is 11% more than during the same period of 1957. Why do so many holiday-makers visit Austria? The fact that it is still one of the least expensive tourist countries is probably one of several reasons.

The labor market has experienced only inconsequential losses from the partial recession. The number of employed stood late in August at 2,271,800, or 16,200 or .7% higher than in 1957. However, agriculture and, for the first time since 1953, industry, employed less people than in 1957. The new high in employment is due primarily to the building boom and the increased tourist business.

The report also deals with exports, whose unfavorable development is the main cause for the partial slow-down of the Austrian boom. But it is noted that in the most recent period, exports have picked up again. The recessionist influences connected with exports were strengthened by stock reductions. During the more recent months, ever more enterprises began to limit their production and satisfied the demand from stock. In many branches, raw material stocks are already very low and will have to be replenished.

In contrast to the recessionist trend in exports, the domestic demand for consumer's goods and investments has increased right up to date. Mass income during the first quarter of 1958 was 7% higher, and during the second quarter 6% higher than in 1957. The people's ability to buy was also strengthened by increased public expenditures for unemployment insurance and old age pensions.

The large reduction in import prices brought about an improvement in exchange conditions in foreign trade. Through this, Austria has been able to save more than one billion schillings in foreign exchange. (Twenty-six schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) Moreover, real income appreciated.

As indicated, the economic pause helped to stabilize the price level. Already since the first of the year, a clearly downward trend in wholesale prices and in foreign trade became noticeable.

In contrast, however, living costs were somewhat higher at the middle of 1958 than in 1957. But in more recent weeks, retail prices were stabilized. In August, 1958, the living cost index was lower than at any time this year: .6% below the 1957 figure.

Wages for employed persons were 3% higher during the first two quarters of 1958 than 1957.

The report said that the question of shorter working hours will depend mainly on the economy's ability to balance the resulting rise in costs with a gain in productivity.

In a special chapter, the report mentions the money and capital markets and notes that the consistently high fluid credit means and the continued surpluses in the foreign exchange balance secured great flexibility of money availability. This, the report said, tends to alleviate fiscal and economic financing difficulties.

WHAT AUSTRIA DOES IN BEHALF OF NAZI VICTIMS

A recent government document summarizes the measures taken by Austria in behalf of victims of Nazism. Among other things, the report refers to the special aid fund of 550 million schillings (26 schillings equal one dollar); Nazi victims who live in foreign countries are aided from this fund according to the degree of need. The decision as to whether a person is eligible for help is made by a committee which represents the interests of those persecuted by the Nazis; the Austrian government itself simply remits the money. Thus far, 206.5 million schillings were paid out of the fund which is a voluntary contribution on the part of the government.

In the field of social assistance, provided by special legislation, persons who suffered political persecution received roughly 363 million schillings up to the end of 1957. It should be mentioned in this connection that the pensions paid to Nazi victims or to the survivors of the politically persecuted are higher than those normally paid. On the average, they amount to 1,190 schillings a month. Widows receive 925 schillings for this purpose alone. For damages paid to those imprisoned by the Nazis, approximately 180 million schillings were expended up to the end of 1957. (Application for these payments are still being made.)

A further measure treats with damages arising out of the cancellation of life insurance policies. The Hitler government had taken over all premiums paid by persons hostile to the regime until 1938. Now Austria is repaying the total amounts paid by these people for life insurance premiums. So far 24 million schillings have been restituted.

The Austrian government also agreed to reimburse Nazi victims to a certain degree for stocks and other financial assets taken from them during the Nazi occupation. Another 250 million schillings were paid out to these persons for the loss of household goods and similar things. Among those covered by the legislation are a large number of Jewish businessmen.

The pensions paid under Austria's General Social Security Law provides for certain preferential time limits for Nazi victims. And the Seventh Restitution Law provides for the reinstatement (or indemnification) of Nazi victims by private business. Here, of course, private business, rather than the government, foots the bill.

About 35,000 persons are subject to certain tax exemptions granted especially to Nazi victims. Moreover, Nazi victims are given top priority in housing. The Restitution Law was created to favor the Nazi victim and is so interpreted in its practical enforcement; Moreover, estates of persons without heirs, which usually go to the State, were turned over to organizations for purposes of restitution to Nazi victims.

A financial review of restitution measures to date shows that Austria has paid out 1.6 billion schillings.

Part of the legislation treating with Nazi victims encompasses civil servants among the politically persecuted; the Civil Servants Reinstatement Law and the Civil Servants Indemnification Law provide for civil servants who were separated or prematurely pensioned.

These laws also provide, for political reasons, that every former civil servant who lost his office because of persecution and who asked for reinstatement, had to be returned to his job. At the same time, retirement age was upped to 70 years for these victims.

A further 47.2 million schillings was expended up to the end of 1957 for extraordinary support payments for civil servants and their survivors. This support was for cases where the civil servants or their survivors had no claim to reinstatement or pensioning, because at the time of their dismissal they had not been in government service 10 years. In these cases, the law is being interpreted with the widest possible latitude.

Another law provides that in the filling of government jobs, Nazi victims are to be given first preference. Thus, leading positions in the ministries and other high agencies are occupied to a large measure by civil servants who during the period from 1933 to 1945 were subjected to political persecution.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

may be quoted freely

Source need not be given

NEW OIL DRILLING GEAR TESTED

The Austrian Mannesmann-Traulz Corp. recently delivered the first specimen of its newly developed telescopic tower for oil drillings to the Austrian Petroleum Administration. This is a 125-foot high telescopic tower whose assembly needs less time, space and labor than other such equipment. During a demonstration, the tower was erected in 35 minutes. The necessary engines were also developed by the same firm. Since this new equipment is considerably cheaper than similar machinery made in foreign countries, it is assumed to have good export chances. An agreement for licensing a German firm to make this equipment appears to confirm this belief.

IT'S SMART TO BE THRIFTY:

VIENNA PUTS BRUSSELS PAVILION TO GOOD USE

The Vienna City Administration announced recently that the Austrian pavilion at the Brussels World's Fair would be moved from the Belgian capital to Vienna, where it will be re-erected as a museum for contemporary art in one of the gardens of Belvedere Palace, roughly opposite the Southern Railroad Station.

The Austrian Education Ministry and the City Administration had to choose between the famed Prater and the Belvedere Palace garden. The two authorities finally decided on the Belvedere, possibly because they believe that visitors to the Prater amusement park might not be in a properly appreciative mood.

Another problem was solved at the same time: the future museum will have a modern air conditioning plant which will produce comfortable temperatures both in summer and winter.

A spokesman for the City said that the Austrian pavilion will be dismantled some time late in October and should arrive in Vienna by the end of the year.

PLANS LAID FOR VIENNA'S NEWEST LUXURY HOTEL PAA STARTS WHERE HILTON LEFT OFF

As reported previously, the Hilton hotel chain has for some time been interested in building a hotel in Vienna. The city fathers agreed — in principle — and Hilton representatives began to look around for a suitable site. Their verdict: Vienna's famed city gardens, the Stadtpark, will be just about right. The proposal met with as much favor as if one the now departed New York baseball clubs had suggested that a new stadium, complete with a parking lot for 100,000 cars, be built smack in the middle of Central Park.

However, after some insistent prodding from Mr. Hilton's highpowered staff, officials at Vienna's city hall proved that the Austrian genius for compromise has survived the trials of time and changing fortune; if Mr. Hilton cannot come into the Stadtpark, they argued, let the Stadtpark come to him. In other words, let's extend the park a little — to include, for instance the skating rink of the *Eislaufverein*, and everybody will be satisfied. Or so it seemed.

Everybody was indeed happy — except the *Eislaufverein*, representing a proud tradition, fond memories, as well as property rights basic to the venture. The Hilton staff, not easily deterred, offered incredible inducements plus an alternative site bigger and better than anything the *Eislaufverein* had ever seen — in vain. At a stormy session of the of the Verein (association), the traditionalists roundly trounced a halfhearted opposition and turned the proposal down.

This seemed too much even for Mr. Hilton's highpowered staff. They were not heard of again. But PAA was. Theirs is a more flexible approach, which now gives every indication of bearing fruit.

It seems that during the *Eislaufverein*'s latest meeting, its directors decided to accept an offer of the American airline. Under this offer, the Verein would lease or sell part of its property for the construction of a large hotel of the luxury class, to be built jointly by PAA and the Vienna *Porr-A.G.* The Americans and Austrians will share the building cost fifty-fifty. Apparently, no hitch will stop the project now that the general meeting of the Verein has given its O.K. And as far as PAA is concerned, it feels that the new hotel is just what it needs for its own passengers.

The agreement between PAA and the *Eislaufverein* reportedly provides that the hotel will be built as a sort of skyscraper opposite the Verein's administration building on the Stadtpark. Moreover, the Verein will deed a 100-foot strip of its skating rink to PAA. On its part, Pan-Am will dismantle any skating equipment and buildings now on the strip and provide a one-story new building for the Verein.

Building costs of the new hotel are estimated at 250 million schillings. (26 schillings equal one dollar. Ed.) It has been known for some time that the U.S. air line had planned a luxury hotel but could not find the suitable site on which to erect it.

Whether Hilton will now give up his idea of building a hotel in Vienna, or whether new negotiations will take place, is a moot question.

TOURIST TRAFFIC NETS MOST FOREIGN EXCHANGE

This year, foreign tourist traffic will be the Number One foreign exchange source in the payments balance ahead of the receipts from the traditional sources — iron and steel exports. Cautious estimates figure that the estimated figure of 4.3 billion schillings will be surpassed. (1957: 3.8 billion schillings; 26 schillings equal one dollar.) In the two summer months of June and July alone, a record gross income of 1.3 billions was earned. This showed an increase of 20% in foreign tourist traffic. For August, figures are not yet official, but close estimates mention 800 million schillings. For the first time, too, visitors from the U.S. grew in numbers. Vienna counted more American guests in July than visitors from the Federal Republic of Germany. In July and August, almost 800,000 foreign guests were in Austria.

MORE WOMEN JOIN LABOR FORCE

Between 1951 and 1957, per capita productivity of employed persons rose by about 28%. At the same time, the labor force grew by 195,000 people. Of these newcomers, the majority — 113,000 — were women. It is interesting to note that among them were nearly 137,000 white collar workers and only just over 58,000 hourly wage earners.

But there were other important changes in the labor structure during those six years. A special study of the Austrian Institute for Economic Research shows, for instance, that at the end of the six years agriculture had experienced not only no increase in its labor force but a considerable decrease; namely by 46,500 or 20%. But even steeper was the loss in domestic help. The study shows that during good years, more people leave their jobs in homes, agriculture and forestry than during bad years.

A phenomenon such as the exodus from the country, the report goes on, can be stemmed only by an improvement in rural working conditions. It is hoped that progress in agricultural productivity will make it possible to raise the standard of living of agricultural workers.

In a third economic branch where employment is decreasing, namely in the leather industry, working conditions cannot be blamed. Here it is due to the fact that leather is losing out to rubber and artificial materials.

Public services are one branch where employment, on the whole, has remained on the same level. This includes communications. During the past six years, employment rose not even by a full one percent. The creation of a federal defense force led to a material increase in civil servants only in 1957.

Viewing economic trends as a whole, it seems surprising that of the nearly 200,000 jobs created since 1957, only 3,400 were in the building trade. But most of the other expanding industries also increased the labor force only modestly. Thus the increase in employment by 61,000 in the steel, iron and metal industries carried the more weight. The second industry which increased its labor force considerably was the food industry (20,000 new workers).

Commerce took in roughly as many new employees as did the iron and metals industries — about 60,000. However, growth in commerce (46%) was considerably higher than that

of the above-named industries (23%). A number of services showed an ever greater growth; it came to 47% in the hotel and restaurant business, more than 50% for barbershops, public baths and laundries. The considerable growth in commerce and services accounts in part for the large increase in female employment.

YEAR-ROUND SKI SCHOOL AT WEISSEE (9000 ft.)

Austria's largest, highest and probably most beautiful alpine hotel is nearly completed; it will be the home of Austria's first year-round ski school and is expected to open some time late this year. The sponsor, the Austrian Alpine Society, has built a place of many attractions. The dining rooms have tremendous windows of a type never before used in a structure at such enormous height. Modern two-bed rooms can be easily changed into four-bed rooms. The youthful mountaineers and skiers have plenty of storerooms and even kitchens for those who trust their own cooking.

SKIING: CHAMPIONS JUST FADE AWAY

The Austrian ski season 1958/1959 started recently with the annual dry run of the Austrian Skiing Society. Before the competition starts in earnest, trials probably will show great superiority of Austrian skiers: in seasons between the world's championships and the winter Olympics the foreign champs do not come in large numbers.

Austria's seven-time world's champion and three-time Olympic victor Toni Sailer said at an interview that he would not compete officially in any ski meet come winter. He is going to be busy filming "Meeting in Kitzbuehel" — in Kitzbuehel, of course.

Sailer said that his friend Josl Rieder, also a world champion skier, intended to say goodby to active skiing competition. He probably will take over his parents' hotel. With Josl Rieder, the Austrian team would lose a possible successor to Sailer's crown.

Putzi Frandl, today one of the best girl skiers, asked the Skiing Society for permission to stay in the U.S. until next January. And former world champion Christian Pravda, who has been living in the U.S. for the past several years, reports that he has received an offer as trainer by the Italian Skiing Society.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

HAYDN YEAR CELEBRATED ON THE AIR

The Classical Music Department of the Austrian Radio announced recently that 1959 will be Josef Haydn Year. The 150th anniversary of the composer's death will be commemorated during the year. The Austrian broadcasting Corp. will arrange 15 concerts of Haydn works.

The 130th anniversary of Franz Schubert's death will be commemorated this November by a broadcast performance of the composer's opera, "Die Freunde von Salamanca" (The Friends of Salamanca).

VIENNA FAVORED

Vienna was voted their favorite European capital by 30 members of San Francisco State College's 6th annual Music and Art Tour. The group had just returned home from its European sojourn. Several students requested that in the future a few days be shaved off other scheduled visits and added to Vienna. Austria was selected as the leading country in a new college course "Backgrounds for Travel" which started Sept. 23 at the college's Downtown Center. The tours and courses are coordinated by Dr. D. Sterling Wheelwright.

MILITARY ACADEMY RISES AGAIN AT OLD STAND

The traditional training ground for Austrian officers, the *Theresianische Militaerakademie in Wiener Neustadt*, will again serve the same purpose by the end of this year. The academy will reopen December 14. An Austrian officer's training takes four years.

RESEARCH DOCUMENTATION FACILITATED

The libraries of the Education, Commerce and Communications Ministries intend to open a central office for technical and scientific documentation in Vienna. The purpose is to make it easier for officials and the interested public to find necessary documentation of technical progress.

In recent years, it has become more and more important for current information to find up-to-date documentation on scientific and technical subjects. Thus the annual meeting of Austrian librarians considered coordination of documentary material one of its most important tasks.

One of the speakers explained that the Technical College of Vienna had already a center for technical documentation which now is to become the core of the new technical library.

OLD SCROLLS CATALOGUED

The director general of the Austrian National Library, Dr. Stummvoll, recently gave the following review of some of the tasks confronting him:

"With its approximately one and one half million volumes, the Austrian National Library belongs among the greatest libraries in the world. As concerns its collections of manuscripts, scrolls, maps and portraits, hardly five or six other libraries can match the Vienna library.

"All books published in Austria and everything that is written about Austria in foreign countries can be found in the National Library. Its collections include almost all belle-lettres from the world 'round.

"Since the beginning of the 19th century," the director general said, "the ever-growing library has been combatting lack of space. At present, this problem had again become acute. The library was given several rooms in the New *Hofburg*, but it would still take some time before they were ready for use."

Besides moving entire collections into the new rooms, Dr. Stummvoll said, the staff is working on a catalogue of scrolls, parchments and books published between 1500 and 1930.

The speaker also pointed to the report of the Societies of European National Libraries, which showed that close cooperation among the various national libraries is absolutely essential, especially in view of the tremendous number of works which find their way into print in these days. The most important instrument for such collaboration will be a collective catalogue compiled by European libraries this side of the Iron Curtain.

VIENNA AKADEMIE-KAMMERCHOR ON U.S. TOUR

Under the direction of Guenther Theuring, the Vienna choir has arrived for a U.S. tour. The schedule:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Oct. | 9. Rock Springs, Wyo. |
| 12. Alamogordo, N.M. | 10. Rawlins, Wyo. |
| 13. Juarez, Mex. | 11. Ft. Collins, Colo. |
| 14. Globe, Ariz. | 12. Laramie, Wyo. |
| 16. Indio, Cal. | 13. Boulder, Colo. |
| 17. Santa Ana, Cal. | 14. Raton, N.M. |
| 18. Anaheim, Cal. | 15. Durango, Colo. |
| 19. Los Angeles, Cal. | 16. Cortez, Colo. |
| 20. Claremont, Cal. | 17. Alamosa, Colo. |
| 22. Berkeley, Cal. | 18. Colorado Springs, Colo. |
| 24. Ft. Bragg, Cal. | 19. Scotts Bluff, Neb. |
| 25. Eureka, Cal. | 20. Kearney, Neb. |
| 27. Beaverton, Oregon | 23. Waverly, Iowa. |
| 28. Aberdeen, Wash. | 24. Cedarburg, Wisc. |
| 29. Victoria, B.C. | 25. Fond du Lac, Wisc. |
| 30. Vancouver, B.C. | 26. Princeton, Ill. |
| 31. Penticton, B.C. | 29. Olney, Ill. |
| Nov. | 30. St. Louis, Mo. |
| 1. Neron, B.C. | Dec. |
| 3. Richland, Wash. | 1. Streator, Ill. |
| 4. Bend, Ore. | 2. La Salle, Ill. |
| 5. Boise, Idaho | 3. La Porte, Ind. |
| 7. Twin Falls, Idaho | 4. Benton Harbor, Mich. |
| 8. Burley, Idaho | 7. Boston, Mass. |

discuss such special subjects as organization of national libraries, bibliographical activities of national libraries, and cooperation among European libraries.

CONGRESS FOR EARLY MEDIEVAL RESEARCH IN VIENNA

The Congress for Early Medieval Research met for the second time in Vienna. Besides attending lectures and discussions, the experts made a trip to *Carnuntum*, the most important Roman settlement on the present territory of Austria, and to other points of special interest to archeologists. (*Carnuntum* lies on the Danube near Austria's Eastern border; Vienna — *Vindobona* in Roman times — was a lesser settlement. Ed.)

AUSTRIAN FILM STUDIOS BUSY

Wien Film started shooting scenes for its new production, *Frauensee*, late in July in the Vienna Rosenhügel studios. The book was adapted from Karl Zuckmayer's novel, *A Summer in Austria*. The leading parts were assigned to Barbara Ruetting, Bernhard Wicky and Kurt Kasznar, the Vienna-born Hollywood actor. The outdoor scenes were taken in August in the Salzkammergut.

Sascha Film completed *Radetzky* in August. Geza von Bolvary directed. The cast includes Johanna Matz; Chariklia Baxevanos, Heinz Conrads, Lotte Lang, Ernst Waldbrunn, Paul Hoerbiger and Oskar Sima.

Sascha also started shooting *His Highness was a Girl*.

Rex Film started its latest project, *Die Frauenstrasse* last July with Martha Wallner, Guido Wieland and Thomas Hoerbiger.

YOUTH SUBSCRIPTION A SUCCESS

During its third year of existence, Vienna's young People's Subscription Program found the favor of some 21,000 youngsters. During the 1957-1958 season, the young subscribers attended one performance each in the *State Opera*, the *Burgtheater*, the *Volksoper* and the *Theater in der Josefstadt*, and two performances in the *Volksoper*. The program schedule also included attendance at one concert of the *Vienna Philharmonic*, free admittance to exhibitions in the *Kuenstlerhaus* and the *Belvedere Palace*, as well as admittance, either free or at reduced rates, for entire courses or individual lectures at the Vienna "People's University."

A total of 118 performances on Vienna stages were seen by 132,000 youngsters; the eight concerts had an attendance of 13,600; and the exhibitions included in the program drew 8,000. Almost every 10th subscriber to the project attended courses or lectures at the Peoples University. Altogether, 195,455 young people were counted at all of the project's performances.

During the three years of operation, a total of 522,500 young people attended theatre and concert performances, exhibitions and lectures. Three-year statistics show that 322 theater performances attracted 363,240 youngsters; 23 concerts drew 38,200. Twenty-two motion picture performances were attended by 17,000 and 23 exhibitions drew the same number. Lectures and courses were attended by 86,784 young people. Within the framework of the project, subscribers attended 322 theatrical performances at State and private theaters in Vienna. They saw 114 different plays.



The Austrian choir on board the SS Ile De France. The director, Guenther Theuring, is on the extreme right.

UNESCO LIBRARY SYMPOSIUM IN VIENNA

A symposium of European National Libraries takes place in Vienna from Sept. 8 to 27 under UNESCO auspices. Librarians from 26 nations will participate. Several non-European UNESCO member states will be represented by observers, as will a number of interested international organizations. The Austrian National Library acts as host. Activities are divided primarily into three working parties to

AUSTRIAN SCHOOL STATISTICS

A statistical breakdown on schools and school attendance appeared recently in the Austrian Yearbook for 1957. It reported that during that year the following classes were held in public schools:

<i>Volksschule</i> (students of age 6-10)	15,732
<i>Hauptschule</i> (students of age 11-14)	6,210
Special schools	1,116

(*Volksschule* and *Hauptschule* together approximately correspond to elementary or junior high school in the U.S. Ed.) In comparison with 1956, there was no change in the average number of pupils per class in the *Volksschule*. in the *Hauptschule*, however, it rose from 31.8 to 32.21. and in the special schools from 16.3 to 16.49.

The following picture is given by the statistics showing comparative attendance in Austrian public and private schools:

In 4,325 public *Volksschulen*, 516,497 students were taught; the 101 private preparatory schools had 14,149 pupils. The number of public *Hauptschulen* was 740 with 188,472

students. Private schools of this type numbered only 70 with attendance of 10,360. One hundred and five public special schools had an attendance of 17,763, and the eight private schools of similar type counted 552 students.

The number of students in the public *Volks*, *Haupt* and special schools, decreased by 18,333 in comparison with 1956. The *Volksschulen* lost 2,850, the *Hauptschulen* 13,768 but the special schools gained 1,715.

During the year, the number of students in secondary schools, or *Mittelschulen* (age 10-18 or 14-18; corresponding to American high school and junior college) rose to a total of 81,027, necessitated an increase of classes by 122 to a new total of 2,683. The number of students at technical and trade schools rose to 14,139 and the number of classes to 584. There was a slight decrease in attendance at girls' vocational schools which, in 1957, were attended by 10,036 students. Altogether, Vocational high schools counted 19,671 students during the school year 1956-1957, a gain of 1,814 over the previous year.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120

